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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: 018484-001200US  
Client Ref. No.: MEBI 05/02 US

Examiner William O. Sandals at Fax No.: (703) 872-9307

On June 28, 2002

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Jane Rodas

#23/1

Zeta  
7-14-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Robert Bridenbaugh et al.

Application No.: 09/121,798

Filed: July 23, 1998

For: METHODS FOR PURIFYING  
NUCLEIC ACIDS

Examiner: Sandals, William O.

Art Unit: 1636

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX CPA

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated January 3, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and file herewith a Continued Prosecution Application and a Preliminary Amendment. Applicants petition to extend the period of filing a response to the Final Office Action for three months. A fee transmittal authorizing the Commissioner to charge the petition fee to our deposit account is attached. For the convenience of the Examiner, a list of pending claims after entry of this Amendment is attached as Appendix I. Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.